

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2024 Grazing Season
(5/15/2024-10/15/2024)

Reserve Ranger District
Gila National Forest

T Bar Allotment



Agreed To By: Permittee
Permittee

Date: 4/9/2024

Approved By: Bret Ruff
Bret Ruff, *Deputy Forest Supervisor*

Date: 4/15/2024



2024 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: T Bar

Permittee:

Permit Number: 61544 (Special Limit)

Total Permitted Livestock:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Nelson D. Shirley	Up to 3,000 yearlings (10,500 AUMs)	Term	5/15-10/15
Nelson D. Shirley	10 Horses (90 AUMs)	Term	5/15-10/15

Authorization: Authorized to graze the following in 2024:

Permittee	Authorized	Type	Season
Nelson D. Shirley	Up to 700 cow/calf (3,544 AUMs)	Term	5/15-10/15
	Up to 850 yearlings (4,304 AUMs)	Term	5/15-10/15

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on an allotment is as follows:

- a. All cattle six (6) months of age or older **at the time of entering** the National Forest **and all weaned** animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

Nonuse: Application for credit or refund must be made in “**writing**” and “**in advance**” by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Reserve Ranger District Office. **Note:** Credit or refund applications will not be processed unless value is \$100.00 or more and District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time livestock are removed from NFS Lands.

Bovine Trichinosis: Virgin bulls not exposed to breeding are exempt from testing if under 12 months of age. As of 2/26/10, bulls 12 months of age and older are required to have a negative trich test within 30 days prior to entry. **A signed affidavit from the owner for the virgin status of bulls 12 TO 24 months of age is no longer applicable.** Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls must be tested negative prior to import into New Mexico. Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls sold within the state of New Mexico must be tested negative within 30 days prior to change of ownership. Please contact the New Mexico Livestock Board for more details.

Management: T Bar 2024 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture		Time Frame
7HL	All Cattle	5/15-6/30
Pitchfork/Canyon Creek	All Cattle	7/01-8/31
Negrito/7HL	All Cattle	9/01-10/15
T Bar Shipping Traps	All Cattle	Fall shipping

No Livestock are allowed in the Snow Lake or Willow Creek Recreation areas. No livestock are allowed in the T Bar Canyon enclosure with the exception of the water points from the Loco Pasture. If livestock are found in the excluded areas you will need to remove them promptly.

Please monitor use levels in Negrito, Loco, Canyon Creek, and T Bar Canyon along with 7HL pastures and associated traps if utilized. If utilization levels meet allowable use levels, you will need to either move livestock to available forage within the pasture or to the next scheduled pasture. If allowable use levels are met prior to the scheduled off date and no other pastures or forage is available, livestock will be removed from the allotment.

Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off the allotment, as well any adjustments that may be needed to the T Bar Allotment rotation schedule. If you identify the need to differ from this schedule by more than 15 days, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the district has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

1. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:

In accordance with the T Bar Allotment Decision Notice signed on 8/27/2009, utilization levels were implemented to maintain or improve range conditions on the allotment by limiting the grazing use of forage plants to a conservative use level, approximately **31 to 40 percent** utilization including wildlife use, throughout all areas. Within riparian areas the amount of woody sprouts, seedlings and saplings that are heavily hedged would be limited to not more than **25 percent**. Key areas and restricted areas (PAC's) will be visited to determine actual grazing use and seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. If cattle cannot be effectively managed away from areas within the pasture that have met allowable use or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District Personnel. Cattle will be moved into the best available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring situations.

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with District personnel and/or on your own.

7HL	7/02/2024
Pitchfork/Canyon Creek	8/20/2024
Negrito/7HL	9/24/2024

2. Provide supplement for livestock as follows:

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

- a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
- b) Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
- c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
- d) Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
- e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds. No feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands accept weed free hay/pellets to feed horses at cow camps.

3. Forage Growth and Water Availability:

Per Part 2, Section 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit; If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2024 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

4. Grazing Restriction:

The T Bar allotment includes Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center's (PAC). In these PAC's the following activities are restricted during the breeding season of the Owl (March 1-August 31): livestock concentrations or trailing, fence construction, and livestock salting. Routine maintenance of range improvements is allowed.

5. Range Improvements:

All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. This includes any range improvements listed below. General maintenance/repair is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the district in advance if you are proposing this type of work.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

The following range improvements were discussed and planned for this grazing season: The following range improvements are planned for the grazing season:

1. Repair and maintain pasture and allotment boundary fences.

6. The Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 9. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the 8/27/2009 T Bar Allotment Decision Notice, AMP and in the Gila National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the T Bar Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.